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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 29 JAN 61

SUBJECT Organization of Rumanian Labor
Unions (Syndicates)

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1. The present Rumanian unions, created after the armistice of 23 August 1944, at first used the offices of the workers' recreational organizations. These workers' recreation organizations were set up by the Antonescu Government along the lines of the German organization, Kraft durch Freude.
2. All workers received peremptory orders soon after the 1944 armistice to join a union. Furthermore, every industry or office with more than 15 workers or clerks was required to set up its own union. Workers in less important enterprises had to join city unions.
3. The Socialists at first supported the new unions in which the Communists steadily extended their influence. Finally, in March 1948 when all the leftist political parties were united in the PMR (Rumanian Workers Party), the Communists seized complete control.
4. To begin with, the unions represented only professional associations without any political character. Finally, they came under Communist directives and became a powerful organ of the working classes.
5. The over-all union organization is founded upon the individual unions existing, one to each enterprise. The heads of these individual unions are then grouped into a local organ known as the United Unions Commission. On the provincial level, there is a Provincial Commission of United Unions. Finally, on the national level, the provincial commissions are united into the General Labor Confederation (Confederatia Generala a Munci, or CGM). It was organized and is run by Gheorghe Apostol, a member of the Presidium of the Rumanian People's Republic. Internationally, CGM belongs to the World Federation of Trade Unions.
6. Rumanian unions today have the following functions:
 - a. Recruitment of labor.
 - b. Job assignment for personnel.
 - c. Establishing monthly wages.
 - d. Determination of the norms of work.
 - e. Political education of the worker.
 - f. Purging politically unreliable workers.
 - g. Discipline of workers.

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- h. Establishment of work and production plans.
i. Regulation of vacations.
7. Every union has several internal committees; that is, for the factory, for discipline, for professional education, for agitation and propaganda, and for job assignments. The most important position is that of head of the Job Assignment Committee. This function permits the head to act, for all practical purposes, as president of the union. He is generally appointed by the Provincial Commission and chosen on grounds of political reliability.
 8. The formal President of the Union is only a figurehead because he is limited to following the directives of the various committees. He cannot sign independently any papers or correspondence, which must always be countersigned by the head of the appropriate committee.
 9. The union has come to be considered the most powerful arm of the Communists because it is able to check on the activity of every worker. The union has also injected itself into the family life of the worker. Workers' children, for example, are placed in creches run by each factory union. The children are therefore raised according to the most rigorous Marxist doctrines. All social events are subject to prior approval of the local inter-union committee.
 10. Any spare time available to the worker is occupied by various manifestations and meetings of political character in which all are forced to take part. No one is allowed time for his own education. Even details of the worker's private life are subject to the union's scrutiny. For example, the worker's summer vacation, 15 days a year, must be spent in the locality indicated by his union and, insofar as possible, apart from his family which is sent to another area.
 11. So-called voluntary work takes up whatever free minutes might remain of the worker's day. Thanks to this system, no one has time to think of his personal grievances. Returning home after eight hours of paid work, two hours of political meetings, and one hour of the minimum voluntary work, the worker's only desire is to sleep in order to fortify himself for the day ahead.
 12. Absence from political meetings without permission and infractions of work rules are subject to severe punishment. Three absences can result in discharge, or, if more fortunate, in being put in a lower paid category for "rehabilitation".
 13. The transformation of Rumanian unions from their initial professional character to the political organization of today has been carried out with diabolical perseverance by the Communists over a period of almost four years.
 14. The unions are maintained financially by obligatory payments withheld from wages. A total of about twenty percent of monthly pay goes to the union as ordinary contribution. Each month another sum is withheld in the form of extraordinary assessments for aid to the Korean people, striking workers in Western Europe, or the Greek children kidnapped from their families and now maintained in the Cominform countries. These amount to about five percent of monthly pay. The discontent of the Rumanian worker runs high. All would prefer "capitalistic oppression".
 15. The pre-war Rumanian industrial worker was always well paid, had his own house, was able to give his children a good education, and live well. Today, he can only provide for his own nourishment. Pay is not sufficient to feed the members of his family, who must also work. Gross pay is itself insufficient, and is systematically halved by the various withholdings of which those of the union represent only a part. In addition, there are compulsory subscriptions to Communist papers.
 16. The same conditions apply among farm laborers unionized following the collectivization of agriculture. The agricultural unions have workers from industry as presidents and heads of job assignment commissions.

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The workers are specially trained for the purpose at cadre schools. With such a political orientation, and coming as they do from industry, the industrial workers do not understand the completely different mentality of the peasant. There arise, therefore, misunderstandings which are expressed in uprisings among the rural populations. These revolts are repressed harshly, and generally, the entire village involved is exterminated to the last inhabitant. Various cases of this kind have occurred in Oltenia and Moldavia, and Transylvania. In Transylvania the popular uprisings among the peasants have been most frequent.

17. Unions, which in free countries are professional organizations of the working people, have become in the Iron Curtain countries a powerful arm of political, social, and economic domination. Thus, in Rumania the membership card of the CGM has become obligatory. Without it the worker cannot obtain employment, food, or clothing ration cards. In a word, he cannot live.

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